

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Jeffrey A. Lee

Examiner: Jose A. Fortuna

U.S. Serial No. 10/625,086

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed July 23, 2003

Docket No. 2159-A (FJ-99-39A)

For: METHOD OF BLEACHING AND
PROVIDING
PAPERMAKING FIBERS WITH
DURABLE CURL

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF JEFFREY A. LEE UNDER 37 CFR §1.131

Jeffrey A. Lee, inventor of the subject matter of the above-noted patent application hereby declares that:

1. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay, Wisconsin and has worked in the field of paper manufacture since 1989. That he believes himself the sole inventor of the subject matter of the above-noted patent application, which is generally directed to an absorbent cellulosic sheet made from curled and uncurled fiber from the same source.
2. That he has been advised by Counsel that the claims of the above-noted patent application have been rejected over United States Patent No. 6,413,362 of *Hu* which has an effective date as prior art of November 24, 1999.

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3. That well before November 24, 1999, and under his supervision, the invention of the above-noted patent application was made on a papermachine at the Research Center where he is employed in Neenah, Wisconsin. Specifically, curled and uncurled fiber from the same source were mixed in a headbox and made into absorbent sheet. The curled fiber component used was concurrently bleached, heat-treated and curled as is described in the above-noted patent application.
4. Attached to this Declaration are (redacted) pages 24 and 25 of a Research Report dated prior to November, 1999 confirming manufacture of the absorbent sheet as recited in paragraph 3 above. The first full paragraph on page 24 of the report closely tracks the last paragraph on page 38 of the application as filed and Table 7 of the report has the data appearing in Table 9 of the patent application as originally filed, page 39 thereof. Further, Figure 2 of the patent application is a version of Figure 29 of the Research Report; appearing on the attached page 25.
5. The undersigned Declarant declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the subject application or any patent issuing thereon.

1/16/06
Date


Jeffrey A. Lee